

UNDERSTANDING OR MISUNDERSTOOD AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

AUTISM FORUM FEBRUARY 4, 2011

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WHAT WE KNOW...



LEGAL



- ✧ Autistic Individuals are 7 times more likely to encounter police
- ✧ 50% of parents of individuals with Autism fear that their child will have an encounter with Law Enforcement
- ✧ Children and Adults with Autism are 7 times more likely to have interactions with first responders than typical peers
- ✧ Bullying
 - + 30% of all teens (typical/nuerotypical) are involved in bullying
 - + Teachers report a higher incidence rate than reported by students
- ✧ At risk for being taken advantage of...

LEGAL ISSUES OCCUR AT ALL AGES AND IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS



- ✧ Autism Advocates and Law Enforcement Professionals Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People With Autism Spectrum Disorders



EVELYN TOWRY, 8-YEAR-OLD AUTISTIC GIRL, ARRESTED AND HANDCUFFED FOR THROWING TANTRUM

Boise, Jul. 13 2010



- ✧ A 16-year-old St. Paul boy was kidnapped, assaulted, robbed, and shot at with a bb gun before his assailants let him go
- ✧ Assailants were "acting very friendly toward him" and "asked him to hang out." The boy agreed.
- ✧ Took his money, assaulted him, shoot him with a BB gun, made him run around in circles and laugh loudly

St. Paul, Minnesota December 26, 2010



- ✧ Man arrested for abusing autistic stepson
- ✧ A Utah man is accused of abusing his autistic stepson. The 12-year-old boy is confined to a wheelchair and also suffers from muscular dystrophy.
- ✧ According to jail documents, 42-year-old Steven Kimball admitted to putting duct tape over his stepson's mouth because he wouldn't stop chattering during his stay at his biological mother and stepfather's house in Riverton
- ✧ According to the probable cause statement, Kimball admitted "he wanted it to hurt" when he pulled the duct tape off. When he noticed tape residue on the boy's face he "used a rag to briskly rub at the residue to remove it," stating "he wanted the rub to be uncomfortable."

Riverton Utah, August, 2009



- ✧ Will apologize for mistaking autistic teen as drunk, police chief says
- ✧ **April 22, 2009**
- ✧ Dane Spurrell, 18, of Mount Pearl was stopped by an RNC patrol on Saturday night while he was walking along Topsail Road. Spurrell told CBC News on Tuesday the RNC assumed he was drunk because of his appearance and how he walks.
- ✧ held in custody overnight and released after his mother, Diane Spurrell, called to report that her son was missing.
- ✧ ensure that the force enhances its training so that it does not happen again, ensuring there's greater awareness around this so that these things don't happen."

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2009/04/22/autism-teen.html#vz1DokH7HIP>

POLICE TRAINING



AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

- ✖ Brochures to help law enforcement understand autism



<http://www.autism-society.org/>

SIGNS PARENTS CAN PLACE AT THEIR FRONT DOOR TO HELP ALERT FIRST RESPONDERS


